

Centennial's Stewardship Newsletter of October 2020



In a two-day Zoom call with clergy from all over Iowa that I attended recently, I learned of prayer that Maggy Barankitse, a Burundi Christian and social innovator, prays daily:

Lord, let your miracles break forth this day and let me not be an obstacle in any way.

What a simple and profound prayer. It's not just about getting in the way of God's miracles, but what if I miss witnessing one of the miracles? I'm convinced by this prayer that God's miracles, regardless of how small or seemingly insignificant they may seem, appear every single day--even when we aren't aware of those miracles. The question that I wonder with this prayer in mind, however, is: how can I be more attuned to the daily miracles God offers us?



In this year's Stewardship series, we've been thinking together on how the *Miracle Continues* at Ivy and I wish I would have known about this prayer ahead of starting this series together, as perhaps it could have been a prayer we offered each week to one another as we gathered for worship.

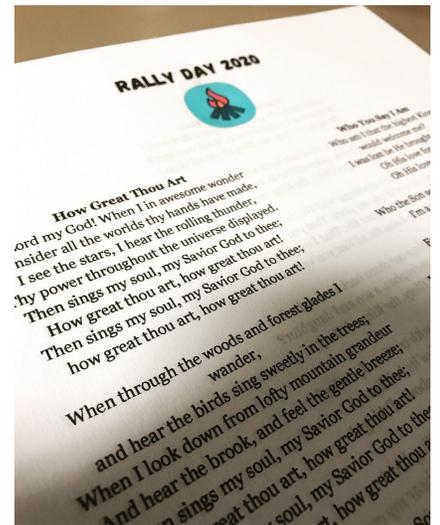
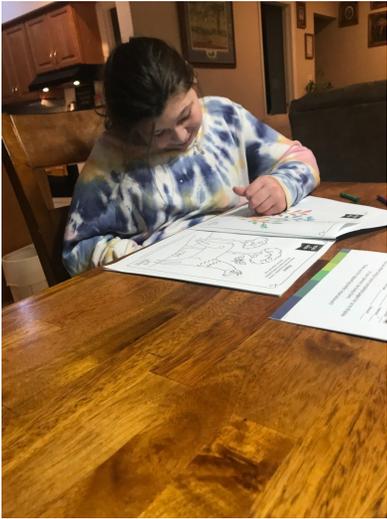
Lord, let your miracles break forth this day and let me not be an obstacle in any way.

The miracle at Ivy has continued since that first *Miracle Sunday* you all shared in 2018. Miraculously, you have continued to support the church with your gifts and your time. Miraculously, our church has continued to feed people who are hungry, not just for food, but also hungry for faith formation and discipleship. Miraculously, Ivy has continued to pray for one another and we've had the ability to see our prayers answered as relationships have developed and as we've shared in laughter together. The miracle isn't just that we can still turn on our lights, but the miracle is that we are still learning how to better love one another and how to better love our incredible, everlasting, miracle-offering God.

Thank you for joining us as we at Centennial UMC at Ivy continue the miracle of hospitable welcome, faithful prayer, and loving service to God and our neighbors. As you prepare to reflect on your pledges and your hopes for our church in the coming year, I invite you to offer this prayer with me:

Lord, let your miracles break forth this day and let me not be an obstacle in any way. Amen.

With love,
Pastor Dani Musselman



This is how the miracle continued this year at Centennial UMC at Ivy

Throughout the Stewardship Series for the last few weeks, we've had "Stewardship Moments" in each Sunday service where someone from our community shares how certain committees and the overall church has used the gifts you offered in the last year and why these individuals believe giving to the church is essential in their lives. In case you missed those messages from the last few Sundays, you can read their notes and speeches below:

**Jason Ferguson on
October 4, 2020**

On Trustees & Lay Leader

As I serve in the Lay Leader Position, my duties are:

- To be a voice of the membership and the church's leadership.
- Help support and encourage new ideas. Be a voice of encouragement and be able to identify areas where the church needs to improve.
- Serve on several committees such as Ad Council, Finance, SPRC and Nominations.
- Assist the pastor with working with the church and its people. In recent times the transition of pastors from Wendy to Duane and then Dani.

As I serve on the Trustees Committee, here is a synopsis of the work we've done this year:

- Your gifts aid the overall maintenance, upkeep, and keeping the lights on.
- This year the trustees worked on and completed these projects;
- Retaining wall behind the church, relocating the back door downspouts under the concrete.
- Repaired a leaking pipe in the copy room, and repaired the damaged drywall and ceiling tiles.
- Power washed and repainted the outside of the church.

In closing please take a few minutes and think about what our little white church means to you. This year everyone has been affected by the pandemic in one way or another. But what's not affected is your faith in the Lord, faith in our members and our little white church. Your giving helps keep our church be a symbol of belief and hope.



**Libby Hiatt on
October 11, 2020**
On Apportionments

Today, we're going to take a look at apportionments.

Apportionments are the fundamental method the church uses to fund mission and ministry beyond the local community. United Methodists, from its beginning, has been a denomination that believes congregations are to fund both a local ministry and a ministry beyond its own community to the world parish. For the followers of John Wesley, Ministry has never been one or the other but always both.

The basic idea behind apportionments is that local

congregations pool a portion of the money they collect to accomplish things that are either beyond their ability to do so as individual congregations or that can be done more effectively or efficiently together.

Apportionments allow the church to produce goods and services funded by all for the benefit of all. Larger congregations with larger budgets are asked to pay more on the principle that those with greater ability should contribute more.

One of the unique and defining factors of the United Methodist Church is that we are connectional in that we share Wesleyan values - do no harm, do good and stay in love with God. We share these connections with United Methodists all over the world. We receive resources and support simply by being Wesleyan.

One way we show this connection is through apportioned giving. That term describes how the money you give to your church each week is divided and distributed throughout the United Methodist Church. Through you and your support of apportioned giving, we are able to participate in the ministry of the United Methodist Church both locally and around the world.

The system of apportionments evolved in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Prior to apportionments, boards, agencies

and other collective ministries relied upon direct fundraising. The evolution of apportionments was driven by three overlapping desires: Boards and agencies wanted a more reliable source of income than the varying amounts they collected in fundraising. Local churches wanted a simpler approach to giving that the multiple appeals with which they were bombarded. And General Conference wanted more control over boards and agencies. The apportionment system achieved all of these goals simultaneously. In the US, there are apportionments paid that go to support the work of the district, the annual conference, the jurisdiction and the General Church. Centennial is in the Central District of the Iowa Annual Conference in the North Central Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church. On average, for every dollar United Methodists in the US give to the church, only \$0.02 goes to general Church apportionments, whereas \$0.07 goes to district, annual conference and jurisdictional apportionments, mostly to the annual conference. Within general church apportionments, there are seven different funds: the World Service Fund, the Episcopal Fund, the Ministerial Education Fund, the Black College Fund, the General Administration Fund, the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund, and the Africa University Fund.

When we work together as God's children and pool our giving, we

are able to see the word 'apportionment' not as a constricting budget item but as a vehicle bringing God's Grace into our churches, our conference and beyond.

When you give to your local United Methodist Church, your giving is divided into many pieces and travels to many different places. It generally goes to support three significant areas: your church, the General and Jurisdictional Church Fund and the ministries of the Iowa Conference. Centennial's apportionments for 2021 are: General Church Apportionments - \$2,881, Conference Ministries - \$8,576 and Conference Mission Giving - \$1,656 making Centennial's apportionments \$13,113. That total is \$3,310 less than 2020. 88% of our giving stays in the local church 2.6% is for the general and jurisdictional church 9.4% goes to the Iowa Annual Conference Our District also has a voluntary special asking in the amount of \$766.50

Thank you for your ministry as a United Methodist.



**Brandi Jackson on
October 18, 2020**
On Missions

Missions at Centennial is not only a vital asset for our community and world it is a vital asset for our church. Although this year is an off year we have found a couple ways to be creative with helping our community.

We kicked off the year with our Souper Bowl soup drive, collecting 50 cans of soup! Usually we then go into the Heifer Project, we started the Heifer Project with a fellowship kick off but then the Covid 19 pandemic hit, we switched to trying to help the Caring Hands food bank with monetary donations. The congregation then responded with an amazing \$2900 dollars raised! We have also had a drive thru food drive. The food drive collected an astounding 908 items and over 1200 lbs of food.

Missions is now collecting socks for the homeless. Socks are one of the most needed items for the homeless in the winter for adults. Youth socks go to the elementary schools in the SEP district to help children that come to school with no socks in the winter. Missions will then start collecting hats, mittens, gloves, and coats. Last year when I delivered the over 200 items Ivy congregation donated to Bidwell Riverside they were close to tears because the weekend before they ran out of the much needed items. That moment is what missions is about: helping each other, being there for each other especially during these uneasy times.

**Marcy Bowie & Jonathan Freel
on October 25, 2020**

On Family & Evangelism Ministries

From drawing sweet messages on sidewalks, to free ice cream on the church lawn, and safe family Easter egg hunts, the Family & Evangelism Committee has continued to support and care for all of our community throughout the pandemic. In the last year, they spent their time and energy planning:

-Game Nights

-Printed cards for you to send to your friends and family that say "Praying for or Thinking of You"

-Made and delivered care packages for people who cannot visit worship often

-Christmas crafts, such as canvas painting and wreath making

-Shaved ice after worship
Sidewalk chalk

And more! Thank you for your continued giving that has helped us support and offer God's love to you.

And we hope you'll continue to think of Ivy and the work of this committee as you pledge for this upcoming year so that we can be a church that serves and loves not just for today, but also for the future.



CENTENNIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 2021 BUDGET

DISBURSEMENTS	2020 BUDGET	2021 BUDGET	CHANGE FROM '20	% OF BUDGET
PROGRAMS				
Edu/Youth	\$1,000	\$1,000	0	
Family Ministries & Evangelism	\$2,000	\$2,000	0	
Missions	\$600	\$600	0	
Worship	\$1,600	\$1,600	0	
Library	\$300	\$100	-200	Decr
PROGRAMS TOTAL	\$5,500	\$5,300	-3.6%	3.6%
PASTORAL MINISTRY & STAFF PAYROLL				
Minister	\$42,968	\$44,057	1089	Incr
Mileage	\$1,900	\$800	-1100	Decr
Health Insurance	\$16,716	\$17,412	696	Incr
Pastors Pension	\$9,046	\$9,323	277	Incr
Housing Compensation	\$17,337	\$18,098	761	Incr
Continuing Education	\$700	\$700	0	
Annual Conference Attendance	\$150	\$150	0	
Other Reimbursed Expenses	\$500	\$500	0	
Total Pastor's Compensation	\$89,317	\$91,040	1.9%	
Pulpit Supply=Guest Minister	\$500	\$500	0	
Annual Conference (Lay Member)	\$100	\$100	0	
Pastor Welcome Fellowship	\$500	\$500	0	
Organist/Pianist	\$3,500	\$3,500	0	
Custodian	\$3,500	\$3,500	0	
Secretary/Newsletter Editor	\$4,000	\$4,000	0	
FICA Contribution	\$800	\$800	0	
PASTORAL & STAFF TOTAL	\$102,217	\$103,940	1.7%	70.0%

DISBURSEMENTS	2020 BUDGET	2021 BUDGET	CHANGE FROM '20	% OF BUDGET
CONFERENCE				
Apportionments	\$16,423	\$13,113	-3310	Decr
Dist Special Asking	\$770	\$767	-3	Decr
CONFERENCE TOTAL	\$17,193	\$13,880	-19.3%	9.4%
MAINTENANCE				
Insurance	\$2,800	\$2,800	0	
Fuel & Utilities	\$6,825	\$6,825	0	
General Trustees	\$6,400	\$7,875	1475	Incr
MAINTENANCE TOTAL	\$16,025	\$17,500	9.2%	11.8%
COMMUNICATIONS				
Web Site & Calling Service	\$346	\$346	0	
Telephone & Internet Service	\$1,260	\$1,260	0	
Newsletter Postage	\$300	\$300	0	
Advent & Lenten Printing & Mailing	\$2,000	\$2,000	0	
Welcoming Post Card	\$590	\$590	0	
Annual P.O. Box Fee	\$64	\$64	0	
Annual Bulk Mailing Fee	\$235	\$240	5	Incr
COMMUNICATIONS TOTAL	\$4,795	\$4,800	0.1%	3.2%
ADMINISTRATION				
Supplies (Paper & Ink)	\$1,500	\$2,500	1000	Incr
Finance (Stewardship)	\$500	\$500	0	
Contingency	\$2,000	\$0	-2000	Decr
ADMINISTRATION TOTAL	\$4,000	\$3,000	-25.0%	2.0%
TOTAL BUDGET	\$149,730	\$148,420	-0.9%	100.0%

TOTAL DECREASE: -\$1,310